

Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission - Monthly Full Commission Meeting (2023-05-08 11:37 GMT-4) - Transcript

Attendees

+1 301-***-**77, Amy Millin, Ayomiposi Sarimakin, carl snowden, Christopher E Haley -MSA-, David Fakunle, Derrick & Keysha Coley, Emily Oland Squires -MSA-, Hess Stinson, Info acct, Iris Barnes, Jimmy Reid-Event Stream Team, Kristin McFarlane, AAG, Maya Davis, MdHS Education, Nicholas Creary, Rev. Diane Teichert, Roger Davidson, Simone Barrett, Sophie Asike -LABOR-, Tai La Loca, Tyler, Zenita Wickham Hurley

Transcript

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David Fakunle: Okay, we will go ahead and get started. So good morning everyone. It's good to see you all. It is currently 11:39 am, so I will call to order this made business meeting of the Maryland Election Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I am not the Davidson, lay on it, as always to service chair. Let's move forward with the attendance. so joy, if you would do the honors to leave,

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Good morning, everybody.

David Fakunle: Morning.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Commissioner mentee

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Commissioner Barnes.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Commissioner Simon, Barrett Williams. Commissioner Davis.

Maya Davis: Present.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Commissioner Service.

David Fakunle: He will be joining. I hope he will be joining a little bit later in the

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Okay. Um, Commissioner new query. Commissioner Davidson.

Nicholas Creary: Present.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Our commissioner Tasha Debris Wilson.

David Fakunle: She'll be coming on at, so becoming all later on. She did, let me know that as well.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Okay. oh, Commissioner Martinez.

Info acct: Well.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Commissioner, David Franklin. Commissioner Ali. Commission at all.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Commissioner Elizabeth Davis. Okay.

David Fakunle: She will be absent for this meeting.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Commissioner Isothermobili.

Info acct: Yeah.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Commissioner Snowden.

carl snowden: Present.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Commissioner Stevenson.

David Fakunle: He will be absent with this meeting. He let me know.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Okay. Commission insurance.

Info acct: No.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Zenita all.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Sorry Mr. Come sorry. Excuse me, zenita highly, please.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Kristin McFarlane.

David Fakunle: All right, thank you, Joy. Appreciate you. As always. Alright, Moving forward with our Agenda Commission, please take a look at the minutes from last month's meeting. Please let me know if there need to be any edits. and if not, there, a motion to accept the minutes as presents it

carl snowden: Some.

Nicholas Creary: so,

David Fakunle: All right, is there a second?

David Fakunle: I guess I kind of was a second. All right since we had two so moves once the person wants the second, all right, all those in favor, please say I

00:05:00

Christopher E Haley -MSA-: I,

David Fakunle: Any opposed. Any abstain. All right, the minutes are accepted as presented.

Info acct: Rate.

David Fakunle: Thank you very much, moving forward with our agenda, to our members of the public. We thank you, as always, for being here and for joining us on this journey. If you like to introduce yourself in any affiliations you can do so now in the chat so that it can be acknowledged for the record and as always, we thank you for being here. We appreciate you.

David Fakunle: Moving forward with our agenda. I have no outstanding comments at this time. Other than, as always, thank you for being here. I do want to make time as we voted on in our last meeting for Soul Check. So we'll just take a few minutes. If there's anything anyone on a commission wants to share particularly around our overall work of repetitive, justice of racial justice. We know there's a lot going on in this world That continues to confirm why we're doing what we're doing. At the end of the day, we're all humans, we have feelings. So we want to give this space for people to just share what's on their minds and on their hearts around the work that we're doing.

David Fakunle: And if not, then we'll keep all keeping on. So at this time, if there's anything, anybody wants to share,

MdHS Education: Well sure.

David Fakunle: What?

MdHS Education: I'll Sure. Just, you know, something that, you know, especially in our role is historians and educators. Something that always heartens my soul and lifts me up is the opportunity to participate among students who are doing similar work? I was at Maryland. History Day this past Saturday, judging middle and high school students who put together projects on on history. Some of which address some of the you know, the same type of painful and traumatic history that we do in our work within the Commission but to see young people's interest to get a chance to talk and interact with them. Like I said, always always something that that helps to to fill me up and, you know, especially with, you know, the challenges that we face and the things that we have to look at and address through our work in the Commission. So

MdHS Education: Appreciate young, people talk to them whenever you get a chance and, and don't be afraid to share.

Info acct: I'm hungry.

MdHS Education: We do...

MdHS Education: because they can handle it and they need to be a part of it for us to move forward.

Info acct: Routine. Remember,

David Fakunle: Thank you, David. I appreciate that.

David Fakunle: I'll just say, I'm I continue to. Be grateful for this opportunity that we have, especially when we see. All the efforts that are now more than ever blatant to suppress and oppress.

David Fakunle: It makes me grateful that I can. You know, honestly to be in a state where it is an as ridiculous. You know, I mean it has this challenges, you know, and we have every right to call out the genuine injustices and inequities in inequalities but compared to some of the places where we can be in this country. God,

David Fakunle: Almost at every waking turn. Let's take let's let's be so. obvious, and blatant and and intentional. About dehumanizing. And I just I it blows my mind just the effort that goes into it because to me that's just such a unhealthy use of energy, so much work, you know, so much effort to dehumanize and it's You know, that's why we're here right? You know, that's that's why we're here because this is not new. It is always been

David Fakunle: there have always been the ones to resist. They've always been the ones to call out. They've always been the ones to a bear witness.

David Fakunle: I think we all knew how important this moment was, you know. Four years ago. It's crazy to say that it's been almost four years since we've been doing this, right? I didn't think we last as long. I truly truly didn't, but I'm glad we did and I'm glad that not only are we still here, but we are in a place of momentum in a place of even more support. Not just locally, not just statewide, but nationally to a sentence, You know, that there are the people that realize this this needs to be done. This is the story that needs to be told there's too many Pieces of evidence. To show us. There's something there and so I know we have our struggles, right? We're all busy. We all got a million things to do. Just trying to save the world. This is just one of them.

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David Fakunle: But it's it's so critical what we're doing warts and all right, this hasn't been perfect that was gonna be but I we've done such a good job. We really really have and this this world needs and now more than ever. So I hope we never lose sight of that.

David Fakunle: Any other thoughts?

David Fakunle: Okay, I'm sorry.

Christopher E Haley -MSA-: As well. Let's go with Nicholas first and...

David Fakunle: I don't know who went first.

Christopher E Haley -MSA-: then Carl.

David Fakunle: Okay, cool.

Nicholas Creary: Okay, I was going to say Carl actually had his hand up first but I heard on the the radio this morning that the California Commission on Reparations for African slavery. has completed their final report and I'm putting a link to the report that I heard this morning and I will be tracking down the, the actual final report because I think that will provide another model for those of us who are working with the reconciliation committee that should give us another Opportunity to kind of look at how we want to shape our recommendations to the General Assembly and the governor. So I was rather heartened to hear about that and I know that they're going to be meeting some stiff resistance But I just figured it was important to, to share that with you all.

David Fakunle: Thank you for saying that now that it's hardening, it really really is. So There's hope. All right. Carl yeah.

carl snowden: Yeah, I just want to share some good news. I met with Governor more or less Monday. And one of the things we wanted to do.

carl snowden: Is to make sure that those persons who come this way, are not forgotten, who's made a huge difference in our state. So, we met with Governor Moore with the idea of getting him getting his support. For building a memorial on the State House grounds to apparent Mitchell, who was the first African-American congressman from the state of Maryland. And not only did, he agree enthusiastically, but he along with Speaker Jones justice, that we should do one for a larger Cummings as well. Both individuals who've made a tremendous contribution. So our idea would be that one of the statue would go on the outside. And other statute. Going the inside of these two individuals. and we're hoping that the parent Mitchell statue would want going where

carl snowden: the Roger Tiny statue, once existed, it would be a beautiful poetic justice if that occurs but I just want to share that good news with the group, there will be a meeting a public meeting that must be held when you have the State Trust committee which he chairs When this is held and I'll let everyone know. And if you're available to come down and support it, that would be great. Thanks for the time.

David Fakunle: No thank you Carl but I want to produce, that's great to hear and that's that's what I mean, right? That's that's what I mean. So I hope that we all feel Again, more empowered, right more encouraged more hope. You know, there's a lot of things pushing against but there are a lot of things pushing in our favor as well. So again even more reason for us to seize this moment as best we can. So thank you all for that sold. Check. Chris once again. Wonderful recommendation. Thank you for that.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: Thank you. I just wanted to say one thing, too. David.

David Fakunle: Okay, please. Yeah.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: Just for every everyone too. I'm so happy. This is going exactly the way that I was hoping it would go with where we voted this in, because it's really important to relieve and remind ourselves of what's going on. And with that in mind, just With all the different shootings that are happening. It seems like literally every single day. Now also, with the, the killing of Jordan Neely is that I think that reminds us of the things we have to look at when we study the instant instances of lynching both historically and to whatever degree that we consider it happening. Today is the reasons that are given to justify these these acts of a horror of violence and the reasons for Jordan neelys.

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Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: Death has been that he was threatening people or he's being obnoxious and things of that sort. There was a near lynching within one of the ones that we know that. I think it was George print or something like that, who wasn't, who wasn't ultimately killed later on. He actually said I'm not dead basically but his his crime was being considered snobbish or whatever. He's a community and I think that's one of the things that we have to remember that. However, obnoxious or let's say, even frightening, Jordan kneeling was Jordan, Neely was being he hadn't killed anyone, he had an assaulted anyone, he hadn't done anything that one could logically say warranted, his being killed again, that is being one of the the defenses of the person who put him in the the chokehold ultimately till he died. And that's one of the the things that within as we move forward. Remember what's being said to defend these acts as we go forward to keep

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: Commemorating these individuals. So, point for point, we will we will act. We will remind and we will counterpoint against those things that are set to defend these acts and that's all I have. Thanks.

David Fakunle: Absolutely. Thank you, Chris. Appreciate that about So with that, we will transition to our committee reports. So what I'll do is to my committee chairs, if there's any thing that needs to be shared at this time, please do so no particular order. Whoever wants to go first.

Maya Davis: david, I'll just start and say I don't have a report at this time, we have not met Then that's for the logistics committee. Thanks.

David Fakunle: Okay.

David Fakunle: No problem. Thank you.

David Fakunle: Anything for research or reconciliation and justice.

MdHS Education: I can speak on research committee, so we did not get a chance to meet last month due to scheduling challenges amongst commissioners.

MdHS Education: and you know, I'll lift that point up again that you know, participation of University academics those teaching courses. You know, we understand that that challenge during during semesters. Especially and during this time of year in particular, so I will be communicating with commissioners as well as our collaborating.

MdHS Education: Individuals around research to try to find either a late May or an early June date where we can meet. So we don't go into the summer having not touch base as much, but I will also share that from our contracted collaborators at Heritage Associates. Still have ongoing development of case studies, but also pursuit of genealogical connections and outreach to descendants. So I did want to put this question to the group. So I'm hoping that we can get some discussion around these strategy for outreach to descendants and how this perhaps how this should be.

MdHS Education: There should be a distinction between our outreach to potential descendants of, lynching victims, versus outreach to descendants of potential, perpetrators or Alleged victims of The lynching victims if that question makes sense. So, There are there a variety of individuals that we want to connect with either to build out more information or for potential participation in in public hearings? So again, I've been working with Heritage Associates as well as commissioners, and, and the Oags office on that on that sort of outreach. So I guess I guess my question is, Do we have a set strategy?

MdHS Education: For that type of outreach. And do we want to should it happen differently depending on what type of descendant, we are trying to connect with

David Fakunle: Right. So David, the distinction that you're making with type of descendant, being descending of a victim versus the Senate of a perpetrator.

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MdHS Education: Yeah, I think it's technically three categories because there are,...

David Fakunle: Okay.

MdHS Education: there are also descendants of alleged,...

David Fakunle: Expecting. Problem.

MdHS Education: alleged victims of the lynching victims. And then there are also who may or may not have been perpetrators, we don't necessarily know, but those are so those are kind of the three lines of genealogical research and potential outreach that that results from them.

David Fakunle: Difference in.

MdHS Education: Well, and I'll just offer to that. Our former project manager, Stephanie Thompson mentioned that most of that outreach had for previous hearings had come from the Oags office. Maybe some had come from the chair or the vice chair. So I can continue to work through email and...

David Fakunle: Babies.

MdHS Education: with those individuals to determine it, but I've also shared around to I believe all commissioners some of the language, heard letters to some of those descendants. So I, I welcome any, we welcome any feedback, but we definitely want to get that outreach out there again. You know, in the coming weeks, if not sooner so that so that individuals can know we want to continue to work with them and also think about planning for hearings in the in the latter half of the year.

MdHS Education: Carl, did you want to offer something with that or is?

carl snowden: You know, David A there's a man named Charles Wood. Who I've given to Stephanie. Who's a descendant? And he said no one has ever gotten in touch with him. May give you his number.

carl snowden: It's two four zero.

MdHS Education: Sure.

carl snowden: Two four, zero nine two zero 2286.

MdHS Education: And what is that? What is that likely connection?

carl snowden: He's? Is a descended of a person who was allegedly lynch. He's from Cumberland, Allegheny County. And I'm you. I have a suggestion if we're trying to appeal to

carl snowden: particularly descendants of the victims, which I think you have to take a different approach than people who were actually involved in Olympic but we we should really, I think utilize our contacts in the media, there's a woman in Baltimore. She's the news director. Her name is Tanya Black And I believe she's probably be willing to do a story around the fact that we're looking for descendants, that may be a good way of reaching out to people and getting them to do a story. and then, on the Then on the Eastern shore because some good contacts there WBOC and W and Channel 47, which covers Eastern Shore. I think again, just by contacting the news directors, they're indicating to them what we're trying to do and they would be some interest in doing a story on this.

carl snowden: And then trying to get some of the descendants to come forward.

David Fakunle: Carl. I knew that name, sounded familiar Tanya Black. I did something with her last year, almost around this time through one of the nonprofits and I'm a part of. So it's good to know. That I still got an information so I reach out and bring this up for sure. So one of the things that we've talked about and certainly

David Fakunle: As we move forward with, you know, expanding our commission, not just bringing on the 18th Commission there, but the other resources that we're looking to have, is to have a more concrete. PR strategy, right and along with having a strategy, the Commissioner, or commissioners who can help implement that strategy. So that's and and Carl. I'll be, I'll be quite honest that I may lean on you for that. Right? Because I know you I know your media savvy. So

David Fakunle: I think along with those contacts and in the networks that we have when we reach out, what are we saying to them? What are we looking to do? So, I think with where we are with the genealogy search, I think This is the top, gotta say Hey we want to talk about the commission because we're looking for descendants. I think That's that's I think that's the aim. That's our story, right? That's the story that we're pushing right now. Yes, people still need to know we exist, but we've been around for a little bit. So now it's really about. What's the specific work that we are focusing on right now? And right now, a lot of our work is around who are descendants of these different racial terror, lynchings, be a perpetrated being victim, being alleged victim, whatever the case may be,

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carl snowden: Right. And just one other thing to suggest. We've got subway anniversary that's coming up that really does speak to. And very graphic ways. The racial volumes. This year marks the sixth anniversary. Of the murder. Of Maker Evers. It marks the sixth anniversary of four little girls being murdered in Birmingham,...

David Fakunle: MR.

David Fakunle: Speaker.

carl snowden: Alabama. We should take advantage of these anniversaries, to remind people that this work that we do. Is to educate people to follow those things occurred. And one of the things that Christopher said Just so true. It's getting Just incredible. The number of shootings that are carrying and the general public's response to him is not as impulsive or just You would think they'd be in much, much more shocking. But we had a murder here. Mass murder here, Annapolis, three people were murdered The reporter who gave the story said onto the next story. Let's talk about the weather. I mean, just like

carl snowden: eight people murdered nine. People murdered just seems to me that it's becoming

carl snowden: You know, it reminds me that they must have been a time in this country. When you look the newspaper to say that man is just an inch, how people just trying to pay you to make more. It's just incredible but any event I think if we take advantage of these anniversaries, I think it would be a good idea for us to do that as a way of reminding people why we're in existence.

David Fakunle: Absolutely. I I agree and I think the word you're looking for Carl's desensitization, we're becoming desensitized to it because it's happening all the time like per say, like day after, like literally the next day, it happens again. Like almost just like yucks. Like we're just gonna keep it going, right? But that's that's the obviously being very species with that, it no, it's it's real issues that are manifesting in the worst way possible. And I honestly, We we have an opportunity, not just to call out obviously, the, the injustices of racialized violence, but to call out the injustice of violence period. Because that's, that's the story that

David Fakunle: People, When we talk about the unnecessary loss of life, right? It may not be the same rituals that we saw with a lot of racial terrible lynchings, but we are seeing rituals that are happening with

the killings that certainly make the news day after day after day. And maybe people aren't. As aware of the injustices of lynching but they are certainly aware of the injustices of violence, right? So we have these through lines, that can be utilized to make this story. This particular story relevant to a larger audience and I think as we continue to navigate our work, we're going to see more opportunities to tell that story.

David Fakunle: As well as the stories that we've been focusing on. So yeah, if you if you're pissed off about a school getting gunned down or not being able to go to the mall, then you should also be upset about this ritualistic murders that happen, way back when but no, but no reason, right? And in this case, it was, you know, race as opposed to something else, right? Like this thing keeps showing up over and over and over again. um,

David Fakunle: And and that's something. Unfortunately, more people are becoming aware of at least on that level and that's it. Behooves us to make the connection, right? We don't want people to think that this is out of the blue, it's not right. None of this stuff is out of the bluing and we are in a position to make that connection for people. So I I agree with you Carla and that's actually something that Dr. Mobley said I'll ask meeting really kind of aligning things with anniversaries, right? Those dates that have irrelevance and using that as an opportunity to make the connection. So so thank you for that.

Nicholas Creary: Yeah. On that note,...

David Fakunle: Any other thoughts?

Nicholas Creary: I mean, speaking of anniversaries, you know, next Friday is the birthday of Malcolm X, you know, again, I think it's wonderful that we have Dr. King's birthday as a holiday but you know, why not Malcolm, you know, I think, you know that, that might Not sit well, with some folks, but I think, you know, the big question there is why, you know, and again, to think about why is Malcolm X make someone more uncomfortable than say Dr. King especially if you look at, you know,

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Nicholas Creary: His last days, you know, from the Riverside church, you know, speech that he gave condemning Vietnam, you know, all the way through to you know, the beginnings of Poor People's Campaign and you know you listen to them and I think that that would be you know, just another something to keep in mind that yeah, Malcolm X's birthday is next Friday, the 19 and yeah, I think also, you know Picking up on another thread. You know, but again I think, you know, again we have we have some connections with Morgan. We should be getting our word out.

Nicholas Creary: In our search for, for descendants, you know, through their media as well Weaa. You know, has a pretty substantial listenership, you know, can we get Dr? K to say something about that on her show? You know, she's got a pretty, you know, solid listenership, you know and following as well. You know, again all of this say Yes, we have these these connections to various media outlets we should definitely You know, tap them as as we strategize moving forward.

David Fakunle: Absolutely, I agree. And my concern was never the, the resources is to, it's the implementation, right? I like we represent a lot even you know, even though we don't have the full commissioners on this meeting right now, we represent a lot of spaces and a lot of connections and opportunities. The challenge is Doing it. And coordinating it, right? Because we continue to realize that, you know, to do this work, right? It requires a lot of different spaces navigating at the same time and they have to interact with each other and also has to be a level of independence. That's just one of the way it

gets done, we know we can be better at that. Well, we can be honest with each other. Okay, if they need to get better at that. So I'm hoping that you know, with the, the changes that are happening and certainly going to transition to that, with Sophie joining us. I definitely wanted to introduce yourself.

David Fakunle: We, we want to make sure those strategies are more concrete, right? And are Things that and Nicholas one of the things that you emphasize if nothing else we got us as a commission that we as the commissioners can do. and with the hope that we continue to have the support from other sources that that we are acquiring,

Nicholas Creary: Right. And I guess, just, You know, to round out the The reports, but the Reconciliation Committee hasn't met. but I've been working on, you know, Very slowly going through transcripts of the hearings that we have that zenita had found a you know, a vendor to do these things. And again it's just been rather slow going just because it's it's kind of tedious, you know, matching up the The transcript with the actual, the video to, you know, check for that accuracy. But then also just with scheduling I've not been able to move as quickly on that so zenita apologies and thank you for your patience. I will be getting more done this week.

Zenita Wickham Hurley: A commissioner curry, just want to jump in. Thank you for your work and also a commissioner, our mentee. I know you also spend some time going through. I will say I did request and receive word files for the transcript. So I'm gonna send those to you so that we can make the edits.

Nicholas Creary: Okay.

Zenita Wickham Hurley: I know you wanted to make the changes to the names a few other tweaks before they will finalize and post it to the website. So I'll send those circulate those they can be finalized for public education on one line I believe that intent right to post them online. I wasn't sure actually

Nicholas Creary: Yeah. Yeah, that would be the hope. So. That way there there is a resource and, you know, as you'll see reading through them takes a lot less time than watching the entire hearing so it'll just be nice to have them both there.

David Fakunle: Commissioner Davidson hands are.

Roger Davidson: Yes Dr. Coonley. I just want to go back to Part of the conversation. We're talking about connecting paths to the presence in the,...

David Fakunle: Sure.

Roger Davidson: to the present and the relevance of this commission. and one thing that, I think we need to emphasize is How these terroristic? Lynchings. Terrorism itself. You know, I mean that's a lynchings and tip of the iceberg. This Enough communities. All that was fed by misinformation fear-mongering, and that's the stuff we have today. The Nazi Party is gaining prestige in Ohio, and they're threatening, LGBTQ and trans communities throughout the nation. And so, you have all those who believe that people of color are dangerous and even Not comm.

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Roger Davidson: That required the death. Penalty that killing someone like, Mr. Neely is justified, you know, well, he didn't do anything then, but maybe there was something else that they have done and the media. Getting the dangerous. Person. Whatever this person is whether it's a black person or Hispanic or

or migrant or, or lgbtq or poor, or whoever. So if we can make those connections we show the relevance of the past. Because right now there's fear mongering. Um this hate mongering misinformation disinformation and maybe that would help with some of the murders we have. Today, we talked about in here with with some of the killings of mass shootings that we have.

Roger Davidson: In the malls and schools. A lot of these people are connected to right-wing demography and what at some point that they've come across on the Internet, likewise in black communities where you have a crime in those areas, where you have young people, shooting one another, they're similar issues of of trying to find a way to find relevance in yourself. And therefore violence becomes a part of it. So maybe we could all tap into that just as an addendum to what others were talking to but thank you.

David Fakunle: Absolutely, absolutely. So We know that people of color, I'll say a black folks, in particular, a very debit Sam. We told you so, and, and we're seeing it again. So you're right. Roger like this is nothing new. And this is, these are the things that again many oppress people have seen before over and over and over again. And that is And again, this is this is what we realize like this, what the bill told us we needed to do, right? And then it's what we realized we need to do in this position. So we will to me, we'll accomplish both and we have to serve as that warning. Not just a what is happening, but how it can also be combating. I think that's the other part of this because these things can be

David Fakunle: Addressed right? Not just telling you here comes but like he is what we can do about it. So that that's the real call of the commission is like, we know that Racial Tara lynchings are just one form of racial terrorism, which is just one form of terrorism. So everybody's got their story and in elevating this story, we're elevating many others and giving that empowerment to tell their stories as well. So you I think more than anything else and hopefully, I'll agree with me. Time has shown how important this commission is just high. Along with all the things that we've done time has shown how valuable this is.

David Fakunle: So with that. Thank you all. I appreciate y'all. As always, we will now move to new business. The, the only new business that I have off the top of my head is again, to introduce a new member of our team. So Sophie, if you would like to say hello to everyone, we are very happy to be working with

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: Commuted your muted.

David Fakunle: Yeah. Okay. I know it was me.

David Fakunle: Okay, she's having issues with a microphone. That's okay. I've been there. It's all good. Oh, but yes. Again, Sophie is is joining us. Thanks to Zenita no ag's office. So we're very grateful to have her on she a role really be helping. in many aspects, that that

David Fakunle: Stephanie did as a project manager and just kind of keeping the infrastructure and mechanisms of the commission going forward, as we continue to pursue a permanent replacement to Stephanie as project managers. So, one of the things that again was decided was once we get a project manager on that is when we and we do the onboarding, with the project manager, that is, when we'll look to schedule hearing sessions for the rest of 2023 that is still our intent. But I think the best way to go about it is to make sure that we have that project manager in place. First before we go around scheduling because we know everything that he took to to get these hearing sessions done. So we want to make sure that we are as best to quit as possible in that regard.

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David Fakunle: Any other new business to share this?

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Now I'm Dr. Farkle. A Brand new In the last meeting for the Friday meeting.

David Fakunle: Yes, yes.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: There were some things that were mentioned I'm sorry, I was supposed to send them to you. I thought I did actually so just a reminder,...

David Fakunle: Mm-hmm.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: I don't know, there's been any new development on it about the national institution of the NAP Center. The destruction of our files and information that were needed. I know they were supposed to be an update to eat and also to reach out to someone to see. Those going to be a meeting with someone their doctoral. Fauci or something. So,...

David Fakunle: Okay.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: even if something has been done about that. Also.

David Fakunle: Got you?

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Dr. Davis mentioned, something about getting money for digitization and scanning of document. She spoke to read about Zenita about it, so I don't know. There's going to be an update, has to get that because seasons go around, so I don't know. That wants to be talked about. Also There was a lot of discussion about it was going to discuss with the other commission to see. Those going to be a subpoena. To the people. About the files that were missing and...

David Fakunle: Okay.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: it's something the commission wants to go ahead. Without if something they are going to talk about today. I just wanted to remind you about that.

David Fakunle: gosh, so I would feel so I I wish that Charles could come on because I know he has a lot of those details in that regard. He's Apparently awaiting baby. Number two, I think he has a problem with me saying that. So, obviously priorities, but he said he will try to jump on. But in that regard zenita, unless there's Anita Kristin, unless there's any details that you're able to share, I would probably table that discussion until Vice Chair. Javas could join us to provide some details

Kristin McFarlane, AAG: I agree. Let's wait until we have Dr. Chavez available for the meeting. I think what Joy is referring to is the commission has sent out Pia requests to get additional information to be added to research. And that's something that Charles or Dr. Chavez is really taking the lead on and so I think when he's back and...

David Fakunle: Really.

Kristin McFarlane, AAG: able to attend the business meetings, he can give a proper update about what's going on there.

David Fakunle: Okay, that sounds good. So that's, that's what we'll do, but thank you, Joy, for bringing that up, but we'll, I'll wait for sure. Davis to come lead us with those updates. Thank you. Any other new business from commissioners? commission staff, just want to make sure we got everything covered for the time being

Zenita Wickham Hurley: Mr. Chair just so you know I will be circulating.

David Fakunle: Yes.

Zenita Wickham Hurley: Oh my hope is to circulate and updated. Position Description for the project manager. We're trying to find some additional funding so that this can be more of a full-time than a part-time position. Because we think that's the challenge I think I mentioned that previously. So and...

David Fakunle: Yeah.

Zenita Wickham Hurley: while we on some additional funding, we I want to finalize the updated posting so we can get that out. He said So you know, look to sort of see that posting soon.

David Fakunle: Okay. Sounds good. Thank you Zenita. Appreciate you.

David Fakunle: Any other new business? They don't like to share.

David Fakunle: Alright here, not seeing none any announcements. We'll just move on with you the agenda. Any announcements, any commissioners would like to share members of the public if you have any announcements to share, would you please put it in the chat, any information? For us to capture to share. Please let us know and just included in the chat. But commissioners, any any announcements to share at this time?

00:45:00

David Fakunle: All right. Okay, got one from Amy. Thank you Amy. So the Maryland Memorial Project annual conference has a new date and that will be October 14 this year at the Lewis Museum and thank you as always for the invitation to attend. Appreciate you. Any other announcements.

David Fakunle: And we have another one, the Frederick Remembrance Memorial will be holding a soil collection, this Saturday, at 2 pm. Do you have details for the location?

David Fakunle: Okay. The details on the Maryland Lynching Memorial Project website so again that's this Saturday 2pm and that is in Frederick so the project remember it's memorial all right. Any other announcements.

David Fakunle: All right, hearing none seeing none. You make sure I get the proper language.

David Fakunle: Okay.

David Fakunle: so at this time, the meeting will continue in a closed session. Um, and that is pursuant to the General Provisions article sections 3-303b1. We are looking to close the meeting so that we can further discuss the individual applications for the AT large commissioner position.

David Fakunle: Is there a motion to close the meeting?

Nicholas Creary: So moved.

David Fakunle: Okay, is there a second?

MdHS Education: Second.

David Fakunle: Thank you very much. All those in favor. Please say I But thank you. All right, any opposed

David Fakunle: Anyone I'm staying.

David Fakunle: Right. And we will note the absences. All right, so at this point, thank you. The motion carries the meeting will now close to the public so that we may have this discussion. Thank you all as always. We appreciate you for holding us accountable and we're working with us on this meaningful work. We look forward to connecting with you next month. So, our June meeting is scheduled for June 12. Same time, same location so we look forward to seeing you all then until that time, take care be safe. Our commissioners.

Simone Barrett: Cool.

David Fakunle: Stay on. We got some more work to do.

Simone Barrett: That. That calm.

Maya Davis: David, do we need another link only because, like, this one is still public on the website.

David Fakunle: Ah, that's a good point. Can we do that really, really quick? first can be, Can we make a new

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: I will make the attempt right now. Okay.

David Fakunle: Okay, thank you.

Kristin McFarlane, AAG: Yes, that's fine to do a new link for closed session.

David Fakunle: Okay. Okay cool. All right, well then that's what we'll do.

MdHS Education: Should we use the other one? That some people had went to initially, that was in the meeting agenda.

MdHS Education: Because that one still work.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: I probably let me click on it way.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: That one is unable to.

Maya Davis: But I think there's still all public, I think.

David Fakunle: Yeah.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: Yeah, that will be public, too, that's right.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: There you can record on that one.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: Some I meant I'm actually at Emily's desk right now because there's a there's stuff going on in my office so I'm not where I usually sit.

Nicholas Creary: um, I was going to say I think, either way, I mean we can tell who's In the the session. So if there's somebody who shouldn't be, there we can. Hopefully identify them. And if need be, we can either block or or drop them from the call.

David Fakunle: That's a good point.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: Okay, can we do take the Take agenda again. Yeah.

Maya Davis: Well, we, I can see visually that someone still on here, and I'm not sure. I just think in the interest of time, a new link would be the easiest thing to do.

00:50:00

Nicholas Creary: I was gonna say in the interest of time, I think if we just make sure that, you know, we have nobody but, you know, commissioners and staff here, let's

Maya Davis: Well, we still have people that are not commissioners and staff on. I'm looking at the screen right now.

David Fakunle: Yes. Well I don't have, I don't have the ability to kick people out. So that would Yeah.

Maya Davis: Was able to divide.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: Yeah, I can do this. Let me see.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: So, you can hear me clicking right now?

Simone Barrett: Yes.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: And let's see.

Zenita Wickham Hurley: Okay, the 301 number is Sophie. Did you see that in the chat?

David Fakunle: Yeah.

David Fakunle: I mean, only one that looks out of places that Derrick and Keysha Coley, I know whatever it is.

Kristin McFarlane, AAG: Dirt Coley is actually from Bowie. That's our contact over at Bowie regarding staffing. Derrick, are you still on, or As you step away.

David Fakunle: Okay. I know.

Derrick & Keysha Coley: Here, I'm still here. I'm still here.

David Fakunle: Alright, I think that I think it's all. It's all us right now.

David Fakunle: Yeah, I think we're good. Yeah.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: What are the names? I mean, I'm typing in names right now. Maybe we can go this way. I'll keep cutting away.

David Fakunle: Yeah. Now I'm looking at the list I recognize everybody. Okay, we good. All right, so, We are now in close session.

David Fakunle: We are here to hopefully take a boat on. Who will be the new commissioner? I'll just start off by saying.

David Fakunle: there's a few people that I want to join the commission, quite honestly, and, and my thought processing and going into this is Yeah, we have to fill one role, you know, one slot officially but as we've kind of talked about the past, there's nothing stopping us from expanding this commission. If we see the value in it. So going back to the, the retreat, you know, we thought that they were other agent, state agencies that should have representation on this commission. And certainly, At some point, we'll have to explore that but even with the candidates that we have here there are. There's more than one person that I want to say yes to. I'll be very, very honest and again, if we have to say yes to one person for now sure but

David Fakunle: To me, the better way to go about this is, let's just open up space for more people because they they have things that I think we need right now. So I'll just I'll just Open with that. But if there are any thoughts that people want to share based on again, the, you know, CVS and resumes that were shared, but also their responses to the assessment questions. And again, if anybody didn't submit their assessment questions, do that? That is for all of us as well. But any, anybody else want to share anything about the candidates based on what has been presented?

Maya Davis: I had a question David. I remember Michelle Gore to is traditionally at our meeting. She was one of the candidates has she pulled out.

David Fakunle: She has so she pulled out because she didn't feel like she can make the time commitment. So actually,...

Maya Davis: Okay, thank you.

David Fakunle: that was the only candidate that pulled out. Everyone else said they could and submitted as a shared their assessment, you know, questions to the assessments. Their response to the assessment questions. Thank you. So, I open the floor.

Nicholas Creary: Yeah. Sure, I've got a hard stop at noon so, I mean, obviously, yes, the sooner we can get going on. This the happier I'll be but um, honestly, I think let's, you know, get to take a page from today's, you know, current events. Let's let's fill the position and then we can talk about expanding, you know, further down the road. But I think minimally today, we should just let's focus on getting that one spot filled and then we can talk more about expanding when we have a bit more time to discuss it more fully.

David Fakunle: Tiger.

00:55:00

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: I'm wondering if David just in. Bonus of I guess, expediency. and then see would move forward if we could if we would have Oh great Iris is here now If we could have Iris, we're in closed session right now. So you're right on time to vote on our The Commissioner of So, if someone Sure who you should have do this? Maybe, I don't know. I mentioned the again, and then we could we have

people vote and just see where we are right now on that because certainly we could have discussions but maybe There's already a mindset and is already a plurality.

David Fakunle: Right.

Nicholas Creary: Yeah.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: Where unless people are strongly against whatever,...

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: the vote comes out to be. Then we would, that's what I already be there. Oh, because we don't have everybody here anyway. But of course,...

David Fakunle: That's your

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: you would have had me. Do we have, we have 15.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: No, I don't know, 15 Are voting members, right, isn't it? so,

David Fakunle: no. So we have one, two, three, four, five, six.

David Fakunle: Okay.

Nicholas Creary: Right.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: I don't see Carl anymore is Carl's gone.

David Fakunle: Yeah, that's that's what we're trying to get him back. Yeah.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: So how many voting members I'm in Emily's desk,...

David Fakunle: Right.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: just for, you know, I clicked mine off because there's still stuff going on my office.

David Fakunle: You can't say one to. Three, four, five, six, seven, eight.

Nicholas Creary: And I count nine of us.

David Fakunle: Yeah, I count nine.

Nicholas Creary: yeah, so so we technically have a quorum

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: Okay. Right nine to 17, right?

David Fakunle: All right.

Maya Davis: Question, we do a poll or from sort like that. I know there's like, what is that on? Make a poll, poll maker and put the names in, and then, just put the link in the chat and people can vote. And that way, I don't know. There's something else we need.

David Fakunle: So I know you can do that. I was dream, I don't know if you do that on. Oh, you can't. Okay, here we go. But no other thing. Oh but I can't do it. It's not the host.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: Well, I don't know how to do that.

David Fakunle: All right, so is that the bottom is at the bottom right of the screen, is the triangle square circle that says Activities.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: I got it. Okay. Oh poems. Get a quick post the audience.

David Fakunle: Falls. Yeah.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: All right. Let us know what you think. Okay, so I just clicked on it and I see these two people who are at the ballot box. One is being masked. Together is not so okay, so I'm on it right now. Click on Poll.

David Fakunle: But and...

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: But I

David Fakunle: I think while Chris is working on that Nick, I like your idea we can in the chat. Whoever can put in the chat, put your top two candidates in the chat. I think that's a good way of going about it, Iris. I see him.

David Fakunle: Hours, you wanna say something?

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: Oh, you know what? I'm the host now. But even I'm Yes, so I need to go back to my desk.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: I will do that.

David Fakunle: but, okay, well, in the meantime, anybody who can put there can write in the chat, just put your candidates in a chat, talk to

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: Iris, did you have something to say?

David Fakunle: He?

Iris Barnes: Okay, I was on the phone. And it wasn't. Let me talk. Can you hear me now?

David Fakunle: Yeah.

Iris Barnes: Okay, I am here. I was having difficult to get in. And I had some. Urgencies here at the office, but Woody. How do you want to do it? Vote in the chat.

David Fakunle: Yeah, so if you can put your top two in the chat, I know that Chris has worked.

Iris Barnes: Hello.

David Fakunle: So yeah, Christopher's working on the poll, but in the meantime, if you can put your top two, candidates in the chat, Iris, can you?

01:00:00

Iris Barnes: Hello. Okay.

Iris Barnes: Can you hear me?

Maya Davis: I just did a makeup hole in seconds. I'm gonna put it in the chat, maybe that'll help, I don't know.

Christopher E Haley -MSA-: For those. To.

David Fakunle: Iris. Can you hear anybody? Amy Now.

Iris Barnes: I can hear you now.

Christopher E Haley -MSA-: And working on that I go back and...

David Fakunle: All right, so yeah, we're just so Maya made a whole and...

Christopher E Haley -MSA-: I guess I'm just tired. That's not a little break. It

David Fakunle: then people are putting their um, top two in the chat. If you can type that up.

Christopher E Haley -MSA-: so, I was like,

Iris Barnes: Okay.

Iris Barnes: Who.

Iris Barnes: Things.

Iris Barnes: So, my poll only allows us to do one.

Maya Davis: Well, that's what it's supposed to be. We're supposed to be one.

David Fakunle: ultimately, Yeah,...

Maya Davis: There's two in the cradle, one in the vote.

Iris Barnes: Oh, I Top two.

David Fakunle: so it may not. So now that we got it so now that we got the yeah,...

Maya Davis: He asked for the top two in the chat, but in the boat,...

David Fakunle: so now that we got,...

Maya Davis: we can only vote for one person.

David Fakunle: oh yeah, so now that we got the pole, Let's let's take the yeah, take the quiz and just choose one because ultimately, it's supposed to be one. That we're using.

David Fakunle: All right, let me do it.

David Fakunle: oh, Thank you.

David Fakunle: Applications.

David Fakunle: Yep. Different.

David Fakunle: All right, did everybody. Vote.

Maya Davis: The. The outcome, but I don't know. Like, I would need everyone to kind of tell me if they voted.

David Fakunle: Once again, that everybody put the link that Maya sent in vote. Anybody missing?

David Fakunle: Okay. All right, well, I think everybody holding my so you can share the results.

Maya Davis: Okay.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: I tried to vote in my computer said, there was a virus on the end of it. So I've locked out of my

David Fakunle: Okay.

Maya Davis: Could you add your vote in the chat? Chris so,...

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: Okay.

Maya Davis: for consideration,

Maya Davis: And I'll just hit enter. The results and effort in the chat.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: I don't want to click on that thing again because now I'm on Emily's computer now. So

Maya Davis: And David, I don't know if you got a chance to open the link, I just sent. But And the results break down,...

David Fakunle: okay, let me

Maya Davis: you should be able to see it.

David Fakunle: It. Yep. Okay.

David Fakunle: so, based on the vote with 56% of the vote, We got Lindsey Baker.

David Fakunle: so, I guess the way we'll go about it is Nick Barnes from you, does anyone have any outstanding opposition to that selection?

Nicholas Creary: I mean I won't go so far as say I'm opposed as much as I think there were Other things, you know that you know and then Yeah the other candidates that I saw the one concern I did have, you know, with with Lindsay Bakers was, you know, She had one point in there said, You know, well, pretty much I'm willing to do anything. Just tell me what to do. And honestly, the last thing we need right now is

somebody who's gonna take direction as opposed to, you know, for saying, here's what we have to do. Here's what we need to do and who's going to be more proactive on that? And so I mean in that regard, I think, you know, Both Danielle Singley and Amy Millin would be much more proactive in that regard.

01:05:00

Nicholas Creary: But that that's, you know, I guess part of my thinking on that front.

David Fakunle: Now, thank you. Thank any. Other thoughts.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: I would just sort of to play devil's advocate and is that in the, in the reality of our Commission's and all committees. There's There's people who do people who are part of the of the doing committee. And so, certainly within our commission, and any commission that we're part of, there's always people who are going to really be the ones, the 2080 rule, People will do 80% of the work and and we are finding the same thing. And so just some degree I know that first question we had was with people be able to spend the time to be a part of what we're doing. Which is a 10 meetings and a 10 hearings of this and the other. And I think these the persons who came through are all ones, whoever who have

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: Said, yes, we will make that time commitment. I know that and earth initially Lindsey was one of the ones that we had questioned about that because of all of her duties as he came right back very quickly, even at the Prince was his county. Hearing that we are the princess of County remembers to Thomas Derricks that we did. She was there. She specifically told me in in person I will make the time for whatever you have and I haven't received the questions.

David Fakunle: Okay.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: Please send me the question So she was very The private active about please include me.

David Fakunle: Proactive.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: I will make the time. So put that out there.

David Fakunle: Yeah.

Nicholas Creary: I mean to that end. I mean one of the things that I was particularly struck about with Daniel singley's. She she listed it out there, you know, it's like, okay this I'm 40 hours for work, you know, these are the the actual time commitments. And so there again, I was just very impressed by that, you know, she was about as transparent as you could get on that on that question.

Maya Davis: On David. I will I guess for me, one of the things that I voted for Lindsay, I think that this will be a good opportunity for us to kind of Our resources, she does have quite a few resources. I think about our public hearings moving forward. I think that she would be able to kind of support us further in that, which was one of my deciding factors and voting for Lindsay for this position.

David Fakunle: You, I I agree with you mine. That was the reason that I voted for Lindsey.

David Fakunle: The logistics of it, it's all. I don't want to call it. Not, it's to me, her in combination with you in combination with, whoever the project manager is I like that team. I like the idea of that team, right?

And getting getting what needs to get done in order to make sure they're hearing session need to be what they are. You know, I Happened to run a nonprofit. It was not my choice, but I get all the things that go into it. So the fact that she's the executive director Of a non-profit of that size is like, okay. She has to know how to do dirty work, right? She has to, in order to be successful, you have to be able to do the dirty work and and to me I we need some more people who do the dirty work on this commission. Always balanced in between

David Fakunle: And you're never really know. It's like, who will be a part of this regardless like who needs the title of commissioner, who doesn't care, and it's not to say that, you know? Again, I'm not surprised that we, we have. Different choices because Daniels thing we was one of mine as well, right? I I see roles for many of the, the candidates which is why again we can choose one right now. And there for me, it is about how we expand this commission, so that we can bring all these other talents on board. But yeah, I will say that the logistics and making sure that infrastructure of the Commission continues to be solidified is why Lindsay's Her her presentation. You know what she? She provided was kind of a one me over as difficult as it was. You know, that's even acknowledging my context with Dan Moore I like, you know, like Yeah, that's my boy, I love them and he's got a lot of great skills.

01:10:00

David Fakunle: I think what we really need right now. Yeah, we need another infrastructure person. And that's what I see with.

Christopher E Haley -MSA-: Oh, where you this meeting and Right now I'm going down, Ernest retirement.

Maya Davis: I think Chris has to mute his computer in his office.

Christopher E Haley -MSA-: Sorry.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: Our outgo to my computer and

David Fakunle: Okay, any other any other thoughts that people want to share? I do want to be my

Maya Davis: At the store that I'm in the chat, it looked like Emily Squires as who had the second most votes, and if I'm looking at it correctly, I think Daniel Singley was the close.

David Fakunle: Legally. Yeah.

Maya Davis: Number two,

David Fakunle: Yeah. 22% of the vote.

Emily Oland Squires -MSA-: That's actually me because I'm at Emily's.

David Fakunle: Yeah yeah so yep.

Maya Davis: Okay.

David Fakunle: So Lindsey Baker and Danielle Singley who are the top two.

David Fakunle: so then of course, you know again for me and this was you know, one little shot with thoughts that I had is like, okay, We bring on the 18th one as at the law currently states. And what could be? The Wink, Wink, nudge nudge with Danielle Singley. What could we, what could we do? To codify that. Relationship knowing that at least, but right now we can't call her commissioner, but it's almost like as soon as we expand you, the next one up. I don't know what that looks like. I know that we don't have that in the bylaws. This is basically something that we have to think about further but for me it's like, okay we bring on Lindsey Baker as the official 18th But Daniel said he's coming too and we just got to figure out what we calling that until we can expand the commission, certainly can talk with, you know, Kristin and Zenita about that anyone else as the other thoughts, right now, cool. But that's kind of my my thoughts around. It is

David Fakunle: And even beyond Daniel singley again, this is more so yeah.

Nicholas Creary: Yeah, I would just say, Let's, you know, since we've been taking time, one things, you know, we've got, you know, number 18, Let's think about this and kind of, you know, let's let's get creative. You know, we've got you not the time.

David Fakunle: Right.

Nicholas Creary: So let's kick some ideas around and see what we come up with but, you know, Yeah, I mean that would be, that would be my suggestions. We've got the time, let's take it and use it and get creative and make sure that we're still working within. You know, the, the dictates of the, of the legislation.

David Fakunle: Right. I agree with you. So to me is whatever we need to call it for the time being, right? Until we can expand the commission, you know, expand the commission. I think that's, that's what we should do. Do we want to call it with an auxiliary committee? You know, whatever the case may be. So I agree with you Nick. Let's get creative on that one. But I would say At least those two, but I see opportunity. So I'm Amy Miller. Same thing right. There are more people here than we could fill the position with officially. But these are people who I would want to be more involved in the process of the commission than they are right now. That's for sure. So whatever that looks like that's that's the creativity that I want us to exude, but I think for the time being, I think we're all good with number 18, being Lindsey Baker speak. Now forever holds peace.

David Fakunle: all right, that is that's what it be.

David Fakunle: So I will follow up with Kristin and Zenita just to make that official because I noticed still a process with that. I believe we can notify. Lindsey of this election will certainly have the notify the other candidates. But I think again within our creativity, what we can at least decide, but now with that lindsey's on and then decide how we want to engage other candidates that we want to be involved with the commission. And what that can look like, until we can make them official commissioners, does that sound like a good course of action? Okay cool. All right then that's what we'll do. We will follow up with Lindsay, let her know and then see how we engage the others. Up. All right. You can go ahead and close out this close meeting. Any final thoughts questions.

Simone Barrett: Nope.

David Fakunle: Yeah, I think so. It's almost one clock. Yeah, I won't get out here. Me too. Have a good job.

01:15:00

Simone Barrett: Nice, enjoy your day.

Maya Davis: Thank you.

Ayomiposi Sarimakin: Bye everybody. So, when I

Meeting ended after 01:15:57 🙌